

FILED

MAY 09 2014

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION :
FOR LICENSURE OF : Administrative Action
DEIRDRE D. HOCKER :
TO PRACTICE NURSING :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
NP 07129200

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of Deirdre D. Hocker's application for licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse by examination, including a certification and authorization form for a criminal history background check, dated December 17, 2012. Upon review of the results of the criminal history background check, the Board ascertained that the applicant was arrested on April 27, 2002, by members of the Piscataway Township Police Department and charged with Shoplifting, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11. On May 30, 2002, the applicant was found guilty in the Piscataway

Township Municipal Court of Shoplifting under N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11B(1), and assessed fines and costs totaling four hundred and seven dollars (\$407).

The applicant failed to disclose this arrest and conviction on her application for licensure, answering "No" to question 14 on the license application which asked if she had ever been arrested; "No" to questions 15 which asked if she had ever been convicted; and "No" to question 6 on the certification/authorization form for a criminal history background check which asked whether she had ever been arrested and/or convicted. The applicant later maintained that she was of the mistaken impression that her record was automatically "expunged" after seven years and that such expungement meant she could properly answer such questions in the negative.

The applicant nonetheless now acknowledges the arrest, conviction, and that she took no steps to seek or secure an expungement before submitting her application for licensure. She stated that she made changes to her life after this incident by changing the company she keeps, attending night classes, obtaining her GED, and completing the Practical Nursing Program. The applicant expressed remorse and indicated that she has been working hard to redeem herself and change her future.

The Board finds that the applicant misrepresented her criminal history on the application which constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The Board having reviewed this matter, and having considered the nature and timing of the above conduct, and the parties desiring to resolve this matter, and the Board having determined that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public, in lieu of further proceedings, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS on this 9th day of May, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED that:

1. Deirdre D. Hocker's application for licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse shall be granted upon proof of successful completion of the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

2. A civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) is hereby imposed upon the applicant for failing to disclose her arrest and conviction on her application and certification/authorization for a criminal history background check. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the "State of New Jersey," and shall be submitted contemporaneously with this signed Order.

3. The applicant shall obey all the laws of the State of

New Jersey, the United States and their political subdivisions,
as well as all regulations, rules or laws pertaining to the
practice of nursing in any State or jurisdiction in which she
practices nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patricia Murphy PLD APN

By: _____

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order
and agree to be bound by
its terms.

Deirdre D. Hocker

Deirdre D. Hocker

Consent ~~as to~~ form and entry.

Brian D. Romanowsky

Brian D. Romanowsky, Esq.
Attorney for Deirdre D. Hocker